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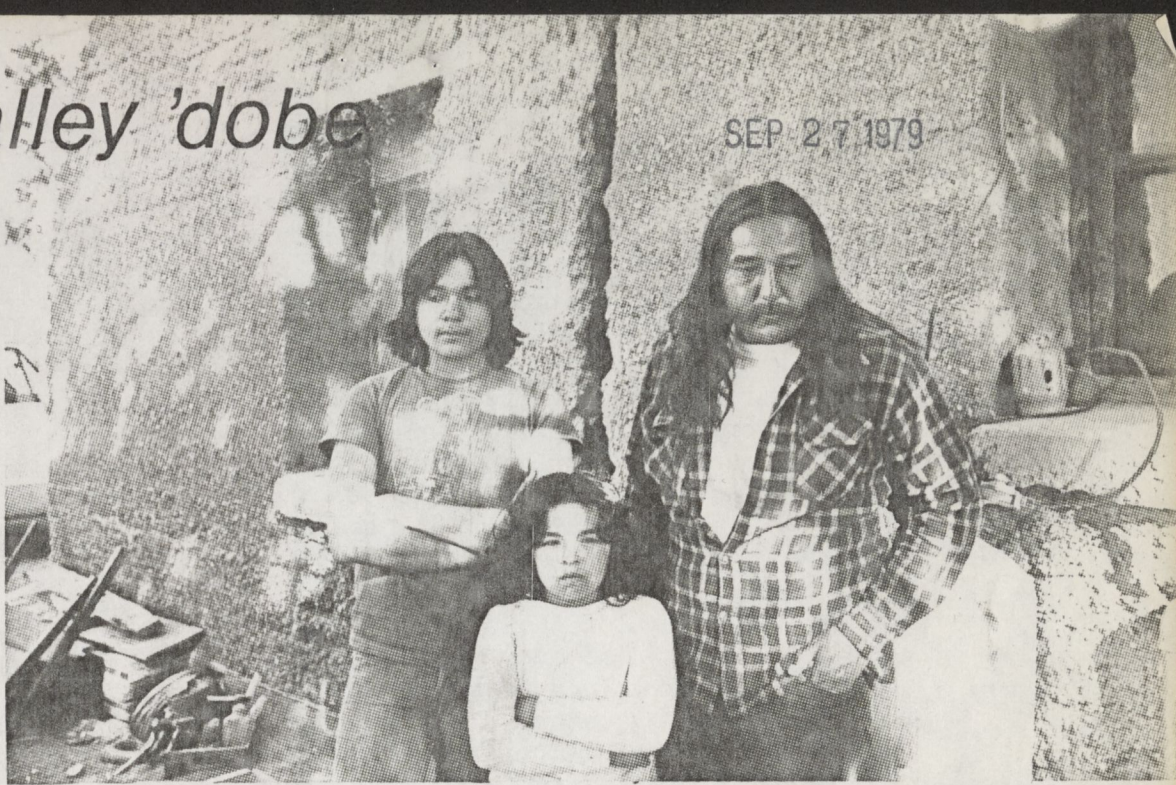
Death Valley 'dobe

SEP 27 1979

40 ACRES OF SAND:
PARK SERVICE SOL-
UTION TO THE 40-
YEAR "PROBLEM" OF
THE SHOSHONES

A report on
federal ag-
encies and
the Shoshone
village at
Death Valley,
by
Susan Mativo

P.6



THE Inyo County News-Letter

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INDEPENDENCE CAL. 93526

April 10, 1979

*SPECIAL FOTOPAGE
INSERT

The MONO LAKE BLAST

The COUNTY

NEWS BRIEFS

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STILL UNDECIDED, THE CAL-TRON ISSUE GOES NOW TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION; LAPPAS TRIAL LAWYERS REHASH THE TRIAL AND THE VERDICT; THERE MAY BE A WAY TO "CONDEMN" SOME DWP LAND TO PROVIDE NEEDED HOUSING; AND McDONALD WOULD GIVE THE BLM "THE MOUNTAINTOPS" AND NO MORE

Grass fire outbreaks



Photo: Jim Smith

Lone Pine Volunteer Firemen rush for equip-
ment as a grass fire spreads north of town.
The blaze was one of three that broke out in
tinder-dry grassland in the county last week.
For more on fires see Pages 20, 22.

AS SEEMS INCREASINGLY TO BE THE CASE nowa-
days in Inyo County, the controversial
issue of "growth" (population, jobs, etc.)
has turned up anew to raise further questions
about the county's old General Plan and what
the county's political majority may - or may
not - want here.

The outcome of the issue - that of the
expansion of Bishop's Cal-Tron plant on Dix-
on Lane - may set a precedent here. The zon-
ing of the plant area has become the subject
(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 3)

Tapping the cafe tills

THE "SPIRIT" OF PROPOSITION 13
MAY BE CONVENIENTLY OVERLOOKED IN
THE COUNTY'S SEARCH FOR REVENUES

IN THE WAKE OF PROPOSITION 13 governmental
bodies here and across the state have been
casting about looking for "sources of reven-
ue." All ideas of the "spirit" of Jarvis light-
ly and conveniently set aside, many of these
have settled on the idea of "user-pay" fees -
money gathered by a levy on services rendered
to special sectors: restaurants for instance,
builders and developers, bakeries - any broad
areas of business in which governmental in-
spection may be required.

Last week it came plainly to light that
the Inyo supervisors have been asking various
middle-level county authorities to "find ways"
to recover some of the revenues lost to the
government-punishing austerities imposed by
a tax-weary public in passing Proposition 13.
The county administration had settled (in one
case) on the idea of levying a against

(See REVENUES, Page 2)



Jim Goodloe

"All of a sudden they didn't seem all that interested."

ateurs - he was caught squarely in the middle. And, as it turned out, the board appeared inexplicably unwilling to back up the man they had sent to do their fee-fishing.

The issue has now smoldered for several weeks with the restaurant owners, or some of them, fuming in the background. They stand on one side with the supervisors so far stalemated on the other. Strangely, only one or two of the restaurant people have uttered any public, on-the-record complaints about the prospects of paying for their own inspections.

Some of the supervisors have thrown out for inspection their own rather tenuous ideas on how such a system may be handled:

Independence Supervisor Johnny Johnson suggests that restaurants violating the health code "should pay more," and that it is "unfair to come down on the small businessman when you need money." To that, Goodloe replied in defense: "But I was asked to tell you where to generate revenues."

The Lone Pine supervisor, Richard McDonald, is himself a former restaurant owner. The idea he puts forth: "a flat fee per business." The proposed plan calls for "\$50 for restaurants, \$50 for retail bakeries, \$100 for wholesale bakeries, \$35 for catering services, and \$25 for cocktail lounges."

When the matter of fees came up some time back, the City of Bishop adopted an ordinance to support the county in the issue; for the council it became a matter of economical expediency: If the county was willing as it seemed to be to inspect the town's res-

REVENUES, Continued

restaurant owners to pay the cost of health department inspections. The plan may backfire - or it could escalate into a kind of fee system nightmare in which virtually every county service is rendered, for a price.

As he said, the health department's Jim Goodloe had presented the idea "under the direction of the board," and, in so many words, he explained that the fee system was in no way his own idea. Appearing before the supervisors - there perhaps to defend them against the potential ire of the county's restaur-



Councilman Pearson
"private citizen"

taurants it would mean that municipal inspection would be unnecessary, thus effecting a savings to Bishop's city treasury.

Enter Peter Pearson, a Bishop City Councilman who is also in the restaurant business:

"Restaurants need inspection," he said. "But I think Mr. Goodloe should look within his own department first, for savings without making a new fee."

"And if there are fees, they should not be in effect until next fiscal year." Was Pearson speaking for the council? He said he was appearing before the board "as a private citizen."

And the county's proposed fees raised other questions: There

at the meeting to voice one of these was Pat Morgan, director of the Tri-County Fairground, and the man responsible for the several food concessions that operate during the several celebrations held there each year. Would the fairground concessionaires have to pay the restaurant inspection fees? Yes, he was told, they would.

Supervisor H.B. "Lefty" Irwin had in mind still another problem. "What about the Lions Club breakfast?" And though Irwin did not bring it up, the question raised others: How about the barbecues and picnics held for the public in Inyo County each year? Maybe they'd have to pay, too, but Goodloe said he doubted it.

Insofar as fees as such go, one of the other Bishop councilmen, P.D. Cook said "There is no disagreement on that. It is necessary to protect the public." But he still had a complaint about the current matter: "The fees could increase overnight" - by the simple passage of a resolution, not an ordinance.

It had been their own idea - or that of the county administrator - but the supervisors backed off from actually passing the fee ordinance before them. Inexplicably, they remained remote from its support. Supervisor Wilma Muth made a motion to adopt the system, but then voted against it, as did all the supervisors except Board Chairman Dick Engel. And, after more than a week's confusion, how did the issue currently stand?

At week's end Goodloe said he had again been instructed to work out a fee schedule, one that is all-encompassing for health department inspection activity. It would go far beyond restaurant inspections and it would cover also small water systems, septic tanks, public and semi-public swimming pools, etc. And - again - was Goodloe told to find "ways to generate revenues"? Yes, he said, by John K. Smith, the county administrator.

Why, then, wasn't the schedule adopted when the board had brought it up at the recent meeting? "All of a sudden," he said, "they didn't seem all that interested."



Fairgrounds' Morgan
Concessionaire fees?

The media goes to Mono...

SPECIAL
INSERT



Lakeside Resident Jeff Hansen ferries film crews in his private boat. The state's media had finally heard the cry from the Mono area.

Fotopage

The press from over the state had become interested in the Mono Lake controversy. They flew, and drove, to Lee Vining to cover the blasting of the "land bridge" to Negit Island. To get to the island they went by private boat and a helicopter volunteered by the National Guard. Conservationists wanting to tell the story were delighted by the media response.

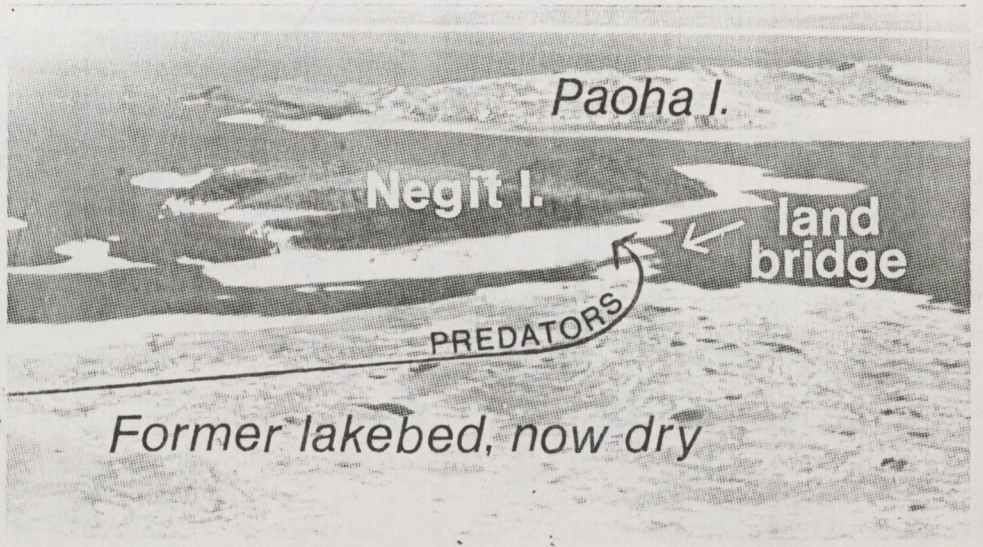
Photos: John Heston



Aboard a National Guard helicopter, the press gets a view of a rapidly-vanishing lake.

WHAT IT'S ABOUT

The lake has been in danger since DWP's first diversions of its waters in the 1940's. For centuries, Negit Island was protected by the water surrounding it, and the sea-gull nesting place there was far removed from the coyotes and other predators on the shore. No longer is the gull population safe. The lake has receded, leaving the island connected by a land bridge which is being blasted away.

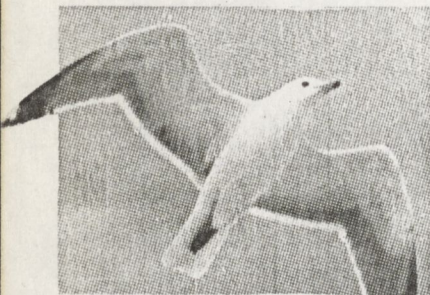


To see what they covered, turn the page

...to cover a blast



The National Guard sets its charges to blast away the land bridge to Negit Island



For years, Los Angeles had diverted the streams that once fed Mono Lake, and for the past three years Negit Island was connected by a narrow stretch of mudflat to the shoreline. Coyotes and snakes became a genuine threat to the island's ancient gull rookery. Conservationists formed the Mono Lake Committee to fight the DWP's destructive inroads on the lake's entire ecosystem. Without funds to save the rookery, committee members and the Fish & Game Department enlisted the aid of the National Guard. Over the past weekend the Guardsmen made several explosions like the one shown below. A

channel was opened to serve as a kind of moat to protect the island and the gulls, but such annual blasting will serve only as a stop-gap measure, as the conservationists know. There will be no dependable protection for the gulls, the ecosystem or the lake itself until the DWP is stopped entirely from diverting the lake's waters. DWP officials have admitted "concern" over "the problem," but since the second aqueduct was built it appeared unlikely that LA's lust for water - to feed its enormous industrial complex - would end. A mere 12% conservation of water in LA would stop the need for Mono's water.



Photo: Benett Kessler

Companies "D" and "E" of the National Guard's 132nd engineers contributed time, equipment and materiel. Lt. Scott Belford commanding.

The Cal-Tron issue

Cal-Tron Owner Dan Pool and his lawyer, Peter Tracy

"We're overflowing right now. We want to get going. As you well know, time is money..."

Photos: Benett Kessler



NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

of heated argument. Cal-Tron is a locally-owned plastics plant, an industry of the kind treasured by small and moderate-sized communities; "non-polluting and a provider of many jobs, certainly a plus in the Inyo and Bishop economies.

Now, Cal-Tron wants to grow, but the wanted growth would demand some rezoning and perhaps some reversals in the demands of the old General Plan. Many see Cal-Tron and its expansion as a partial remedy to the county's unemployment woes; others see the proposal as a threat to what is essentially a residential community that prefers to maintain the quiet and peace of suburbia.

If many of the Dixon Lane residents are not exactly up in arms in opposition, they are at least at the tops of their voices. In some of these, animosity towards Cal-Tron runs high - and it is even suggested that any violation of, or any alteration in the General Plan could go so far as to bring the attorney general down on Inyo County.

At last week's supervisors' meeting, it all came up again. No mistake about it, the

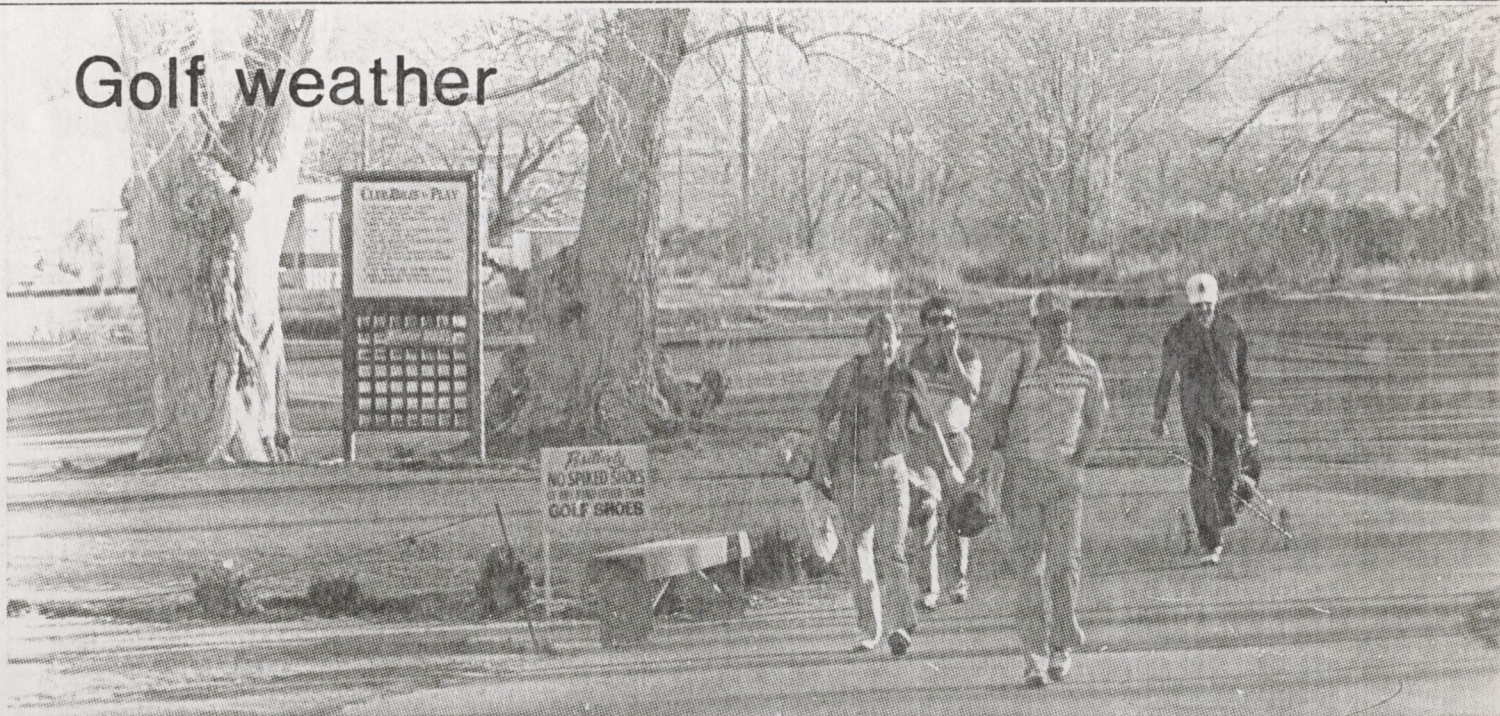
General Plan, as it presently stands, indicates clearly that the Dixon Lane area is zoned "residential." But at the meeting it was also emphasized - by Peter Tracy, the Cal-Tron attorney - that in 1976 the supervisors passed a resolution on zoning that may allow for the expansion. At that time, the supervisors said that their "policy" would in effect be that of giving consideration to special varying "conditions" in any area - that there would be exceptions to the rigidity of the Plan if projects in question concerned areas of two acres or less in size.

And on that resolution Cal-Tron now apparently hangs its case for expansion, for the land in question is in fact a two-acre tract. It lies just north of the present manufacturing plant. Cal-Tron Owner Dan Pool now

(NEWS BRIEFS Continued, Page 12)

Protester Gaines
"Seeking that better quality of life"

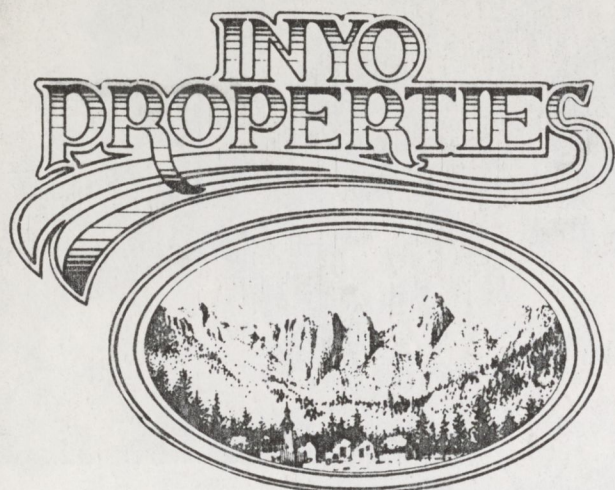
Golf weather



After a late afternoon round at the Bishop Golf Club, golfers return to "the 19th hole" With the return of balmy spring days the county's duffers return to the links at Bishop and Lone Pine after four months of comparative inactivity. At Bishop, weekends attract about 200 golfers and the club management is conducting a membership drive while interest is high. After the winter's cold, Inyo's courses are in "fair shape," will improve with summer watering.

Photo: John Heston

Page 3



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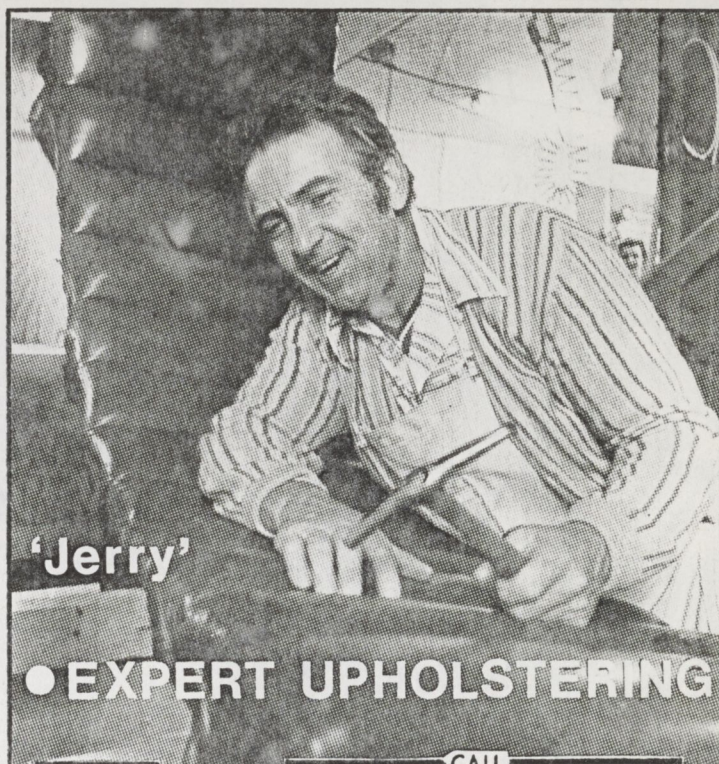
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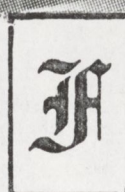
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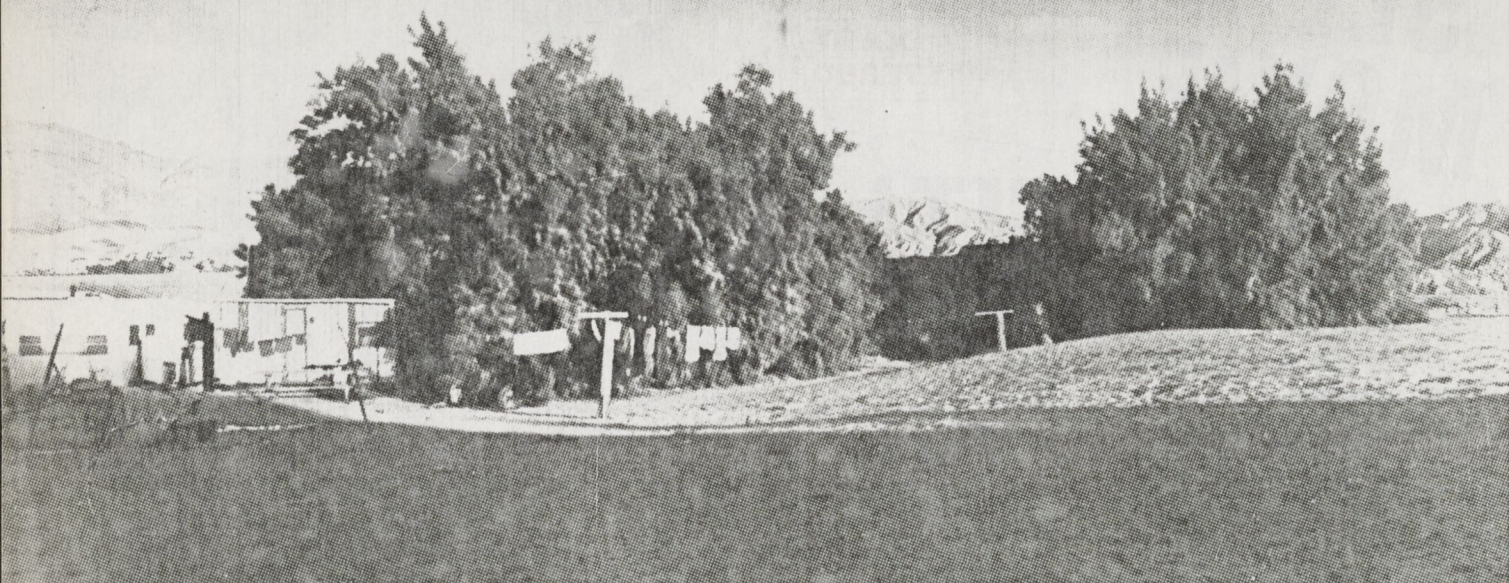
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Down the service road: 'Indian Village'



Out of sight, out of mind. "Solution" to "a problem."

And to a large extent "out of sight" is where they remain. Tucked discreetly away at the end of an unpaved road, they form no embarrassing presence for the eyes of thousands of tourists who each year visit their ancient homeland.

These are the members of the Death Valley Shoshone Indian Tribe who live, more or less, on a 40-acre tract of desert land. Their road is identified by a sign, "Service Road."

Down that road in recent weeks News-Letter Reporter Susan Mátivo has journeyed several times to look in on the Shoshone Tribe. As a lifelong resident of the Death Valley area she has counted some of the tribal members among her personal friends for many years. Her admittance with a camera to their village and to their private lives was a concession born of long-established mutual trust. As Mátivo said later, "I don't want to do some kind of bleeding-heart piece on the 'poor' Indians; that would be an embarrassment. But I'd like to report on how the federal government has handled this matter for the past 40 years."

It remains for the reader to determine whether Mátivo accomplished her purpose. Her report, with minimal editing, follows:

PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER ESTABLISHED THE DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT IN 1933. For the Indians living there, the presidential act was to have dramatic impact. It was in 1936 that change of their centuries-old life pattern was to make its impact.

As the government people moved in, a culture was to move out. It started in the way that cultures have always changed - with a stronger culture seeing the first one as "a problem." First a letter went out. Writing to his superior at Washington, the first superintendent of the Monument, T.R. Goodwin, said that the situation of the Indian population was a "problem" that "requires study."

"Sooner or later," wrote Goodwin, "we will have to prepare plans for some sort of appropriate village as these families have lived in Death Valley through the winter for many generations, migrating to summer camps in the high Panamints during the summer."

A "solution" to the "problem" was worked out in detail by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It was a simple one: Move the Indians from the green ranchlands where they had lived for years over to a sandy area of 40 acres.

Here, alas, history fails us; no record exists anywhere, or at least none has come to light, on the possibility that any Indian was ever consulted on the matter. What is known, however, is that the present Death Valley Visitors' Center and the public campground came into existence on the very site where the Indians had been living. And so, on dry desert-land, "Indian Village" came into being.

Virtually in the middle of a sand dune the National Park Service, aided by the old Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, built nine dwellings out of \$5000 worth of materials provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In 1936, more than 50 Indians lived at

Furnace Creek with another 250 others in the area. Nine dwellings were clearly less than adequate for the population and even at Depression prices \$5000 was scarcely enough to build nine dwellings. None of the houses was provided with running water, electricity or flush toilets; The dwellings, or what is left of them remain void of these conveniences to this day.

There was, however, a laundry established about 300 yards from the dwellings. In theory at least the laundry was to have some of these amenities. Perhaps the Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs had in mind a source of income for the Indian women who might provide a service for Park Service employees.

The plan, however, like the housing itself, solved on paper the "problem" of the government agencies. But it was no solution for the Indians' problems.

Typical government "planning" showed itself early. The stove to heat the laundry water was a wood-burner. But in contradiction to that was a regulation: Indians were not allowed to gather wood in the Monument. In essence, then, it became impossible for the laundry to function, even if the Indians wished, as they did not, to become the USPS laundry service.

No electricity for adobe houses, but for many they are 'home'

Many of the latter-generation Shoshone learned trades that would guarantee a "better" life away from the ancestral homes, but many stayed on because of parents.



More change was in store. Yet again? It was in May of 1957 that the Park Service discovered, lo and behold, another "problem." The park people had taken 20 years to discover that the neighboring Indian tribe was not "economically self-sufficient," and that the houses needed repair. But, worse still, the residents had dug pit toilets. It was time for another Park Service "solution."

Provide the lacking facilities?

No; for bureaucrats that would be inexpedient.

Rather, the National Park Service suggested, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs concurred, that the village be totally eliminated.

The Indians resisted, and the Park Service insisted. The issue escalated into a very real struggle, and the argument went back and forth until 1963 when the government intensified its elimination policies. To the Indians, the most threatening aspect of these policies was the manner in which the village would be reduced in size. The government policy stated unequivocally: "When a house becomes vacant, it will be torn down."

Individual families, then, could not leave their homes for fear they would be - and here was an interesting government technique - "washed down."

Here was the "Wash-down" drill: The park people (sparing no expense) would bring a fire truck to the village and park it, or them, next to the structure to be destroyed. After the men burned out the inside supporting beams, the fire trucks would quench the fire - and

wash away the adobe. Several buildings were destroyed this way, leaving a ring of trees around an empty space. The Indians were bewildered. To them it was obvious that an agency to which they had given at least the benefit of the doubt was not worthy of further trust. Although many of the Indians had learned skills far beyond the USPS laundry hopes, they would not leave the parents who wanted to remain in long-established homes. So they all stayed put in a dogged determination to regain at least their 40 acres. At times they thought they were progressing, gaining literally some ground in their fight, only to be thwarted at the last moment.

The Indians were not without sympathizers, even among the Park Service people and the superintendents who from time to time felt moved to speak out or take up their cause. The record, however, indicates that officials who assisted the Indians or who were too outspoken quickly found themselves transferred to other parks. The situation persisted until 1973.

Two attorneys for the California Indian Legal Service, Ed Forstenzer and Bruce Greene, began to suspect that the Bureau of Indian Affairs had not forwarded all the files on the Indian Village to the Tribal Council. Working on this mere hunch, Greene went to the Depository of Federal Records at San Bruno, California, to look for more files. After several days of futile searching, he almost gave up hope, but several employees of the depository took an interest in the search - an interest

(See VILLAGE, Continued, P.10)

The Park Service took the green, watered lands...

The Park Service has shown a recent tendency to cooperate, but nothing short of a clear title guarantees a real independence



Text and Photos by
Susan Mativo

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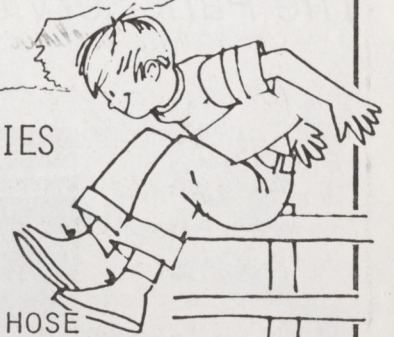
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VILLAGE, Continued

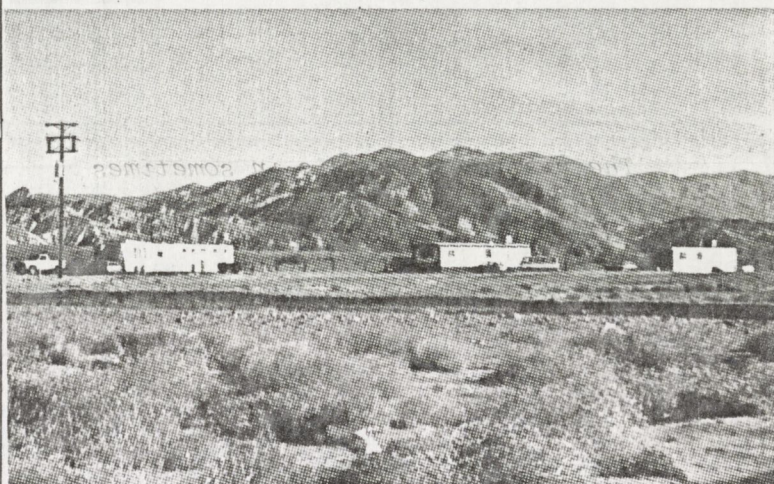
that proved later to be dramatically fruitful.

There among the aging archives depository personnel discovered a trust agreement. It was dated January 24, 1938, and it was the record of a pact between the Death Valley Shoshone Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Forstenzer, who now serves as the president of the Inyo County Bar Association, says the document acknowledges that the Death Valley Shoshone constitute a "federally recognized" Indian tribe and that, in 1938, all tribes had land. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has never officially terminated the Shoshone's status as such and therefore the acknowledgement of the Shoshone's right to land remains in effect.

But that acknowledgement - probably that RIGHT - does not completely solve the plight of the Valley's Indians. Government documents and agreements with Indians have not proven always binding over the years of American history - to say the least.

The Shoshones have discovered that even when their position is correct in the purely technical legal sense, it is quite another matter to translate legal theory or posture into reality. Still without land and with patience wearing thin, the Indians - or some of them - felt that even for their own health they needed to improve their living conditions. Again, they took action. Some individual residents bought three mobile homes, purchases made pos-



sible by a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

They placed the mobile homes on the 40 acres.

And the political pressures of minority and ethnic groups in the past decade have not been without their effect - particularly upon entrenched bureaucrats. Even the Park Service came around with some help, installing a large water main for the area. The Indian Health Service, an offspring of HEW, provided funds for the water lines and septic tanks for the trailers.

Bright day ahead for the Death Valley Shoshones? They're not counting on a bit of it.

The possible cooperation of the Park Service so much in apparent evidence at this time could end in 10 years - or tomorrow.

Cooperation is plainly a matter of the political tides. It is no worthy long-term substitute for independence, and the sought-for independence can only be realized by having clear title to the land which clearly is theirs. Without such title they can always be in danger of harrassment and possible eviction.

How to get such guarantee? It is no easy matter; it requires nothing less than an Act of Congress. But such an act is not without

precedent: In 1976, the Havasupi Indians of the Grand Canyon were given ("returned" may be a better word) title to 2000 acres in that national monument. They have so far used the land to become relatively self-sufficient.

Well, 2000 acres are plainly more than 40; that's where the mystery of the situation lies. Here is one of the largest National Monuments in the United States consisting of more than 2 million acres and, so far at least, not even 40 acres can be spared.

The issue is not merely one of a quest for a physical home, although it is that, too. Far more is at stake for the Shoshones. It is their own quest for the survival of a cultural heritage which to them and others is more valuable than that which the Park Service presumes to "protect."

Not unreasonably, the question arises: "What are they protecting, and for whom?"

As a footnote, it is not difficult to provide an answer to the question. Let's look:

DO NOT ENTER
SERVICE ROAD ONLY

Even those visitors to Death Valley with little knowledge of the area become quickly aware that it has been a center of Indian life - for centuries.

The visitor sees this in sometimes unlikely places: For about a hundred dollars a night he can lodge at Furnace Creek Inn and park his car near an unusual rock formation. The rock is carved with deep holes created by years of patient grinding of mesquite beans.

The Park Service has not "protected" this archaeological treasure; Recently, the holes were found stuffed with beer cans and Twinkie Cupcake wrappers.

The Visitors' Center itself would appear to laud the culture of the Indians that the center itself has shoved aside. There for the tourist is a superficial display of Indian history. In a back room, available only to researchers, is a greater display: exquisitely made baskets, precisely chipped stones.

The paradox of the Center and the nearby Indian Village - one the "show," the other the reality - is seen by some as a sarcasm.

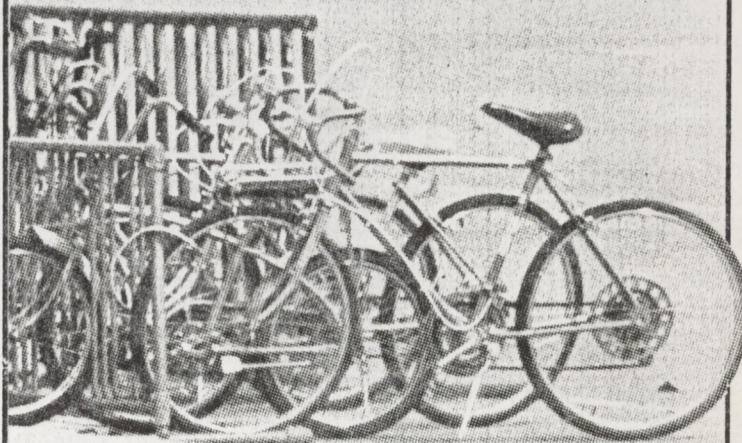
And then there's the standard tour. Park Service "interpreters" offer a tour of Tule Springs where they point out grinding stones, a hunting blind, sleeping circles, perroglyphs (one of the largest concentrations of glyphs in the country), and some say a grave site.

But no Indians, descendants of the people who made these things, can live there.

What's left of them are over on 40 dry acres - at the end of the road marked "service road."

Out of sight maybe, but, as time may tell, not completely out of mind.

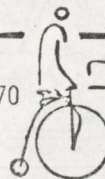
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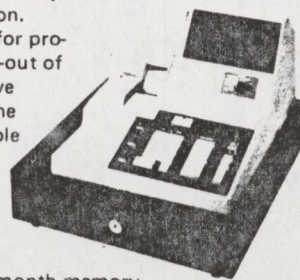


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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

asks that the acreage zone be changed from an "RMH" (residential-mobile home) designation to that of "ML" (manufacturing), and that another two acres west of the plant which are zoned ML be changed to RMH. A swap, or trade-out.

And why not expand to the two acres already zoned for manufacturing, as many neighboring residents prefer? Pool's brother, Richard, explained that there will be more environmental impact by going west instead of north; that more time would be consumed in cutting down trees there, moving mobile homes, moving a water tank, and drilling a new well.

But some of the area's residents want no trading of their neighborhood. A spokesman for these is Paul Rudder, an attorney, who argued before the board that a contradiction of the General Plan could get the county into trouble... "If the attorney general finds out that the plan is out of date, he could inhibit the entire operation of the county." Yes, agreed Deputy District Attorney Greg James, the possibility is there, but it is remote.

A few of the Dixon Lane residents are standing with Cal-Tron. Some of them work at the plant. It is their claim - and the claim of many others - that expansion of the company's facility would in no way have impact on the area's total environment.

And plainly present in the arguments is the economic factor. There to argue the Cal-Tron position in Inyo's labor market was Norm Paulson, Inyo's welfare director. "There are," he said, "a hundred families in the Bishop area now on welfare - most of them young mothers with a child. Cal-Tron is one of the few employers who hires women and pays them a decent wage. I am supportive of this."

Echoing Paulson's sentiments was Rich Camillieri, director of the area employment office. He pointed out the need for "diversity" in the job market.

But for many in Dixon Lane such matters were for others to be concerned with. One resident said he seeks "that better quality of life" away, it is presumed, from the neighborhood inroads of expanding industry. "I'm concerned with expansion, period," said Howard Gaines. And he wanted to appeal the possible zone change, but the deadline for such action was past.

Cal-Tron Owner Pool was not unconcerned with the impact of his plant, but he wanted to get on with it. Asked by a supervisor if he was working under the pressure of a time restraint, he replied: "We're overflowing right now. We want to get going. You know time is money."

At a previous hearing the issue had been, on the surface at least, that of children - the fear that if the plant expands they would have no place to play, that their environment would be adversely affected. "And the concern is still children," asserted Rudder. "New industry will not solve the welfare problems; it would just bring more people. We're looking for a compromise (to build the expansion westward on the already-zoned ML property)."

As the new week opened, Cal-Tron's Pool had reason for optimism. The board of supervisors granted his request - kind of. The board members - aware of the neighborhood sentiment - told Pool to get a "precise" plan together, outlining all details of what his expansion

will involve. Pool had a friend in Supervisor H.B. "Lefty" Irwin who told him that although he, like the others, want the "precise" plan, he nonetheless wants to avoid any further delays. Planning Director Doug Sherburne warned that his department would need "some time" to look over the plan - but that the issue could be placed on his agenda "as an emergency item." But, as a deputy DA warned the board, they are still "not on 100% firm ground if challenged."

THERE REMAINED LITTLE DOUBT at week's end as to whether Inyo's airline, Sierra Pacific, is staying or leaving. At SP's Tucson office last week a company spokesman was making things perfectly clear: SP will definitely pull out of Bishop, and its flight service to Mammoth is to be curtailed to one flight. The move out of the county was met with some bitterness - and even some sour grapes. Inyo County Administrator John K. Smith pointed out that there had been "conversation" about SP's grade of service anyhow, and that it "might not be all that bad" if the company leaves. The county will take no official action to get another airline service until it is "notified officially" that SP is leaving. There remains a jurisdictional matter of whether the line is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission or the Civil Aeronautics board which recently "deregulated" airlines. On that question there was to be a hearing this week. The hearing, however, was said to have little bearing on SP's flight from Bishop.

ATTORNEYS ON BOTH SIDES of the Evin Lappas murder trials were re-hashing the recent case and its verdict last week. The district attorney said he was "disappointed" in the Lappas jury verdict of "second degree" murder. There was, he said, "an adequate period of deliberation and premeditation," and that it is "regrettable that psychiatrists are permitted in the courtroom during the (question of) guilt phase of the trial." DA "Buck" Gibbons says psychiatry is an "imprecise" science. "When you kill someone in cold blood" (Lappas had shot her stepfather Al Durney), "and have thought about it for 30 minutes, she should be happy to get a second degree murder verdict." But Lappas was not at all "happy" - when she heard the jury's decision she started to weep openly. Attendants said she was "nearly hysterical" when returned to her cell, disappointed that she had not also been sentenced. That will occur on April 16 and, due to the psychiatric testimony, she may be sent away for a diagnostic evaluation. One of her attorneys, Dean Stout, defended the second degree verdict: "There was evidence," he admitted, "that showed deliberation and premeditation but even if it exists, the jury can find that she didn't have the capacity to premeditate - and they accepted the sexual assault (by the stepfather) - and the psychiatric testimony."

THREE YEARS AGO, THE MANAGEMENT of Northern Inyo Hospital was given a drubbing by the grand jury and, after firing its administrator, the hospital board began looking around for a better system. They found it - or thought they had - in the Hyatt Corporation, a professional management firm. But last week the NIH-Hyatt honeymoon appeared to be over. At a special meeting of the board, it was brought out that a lot
(NEWS BRIEFS Continued on Page 18)

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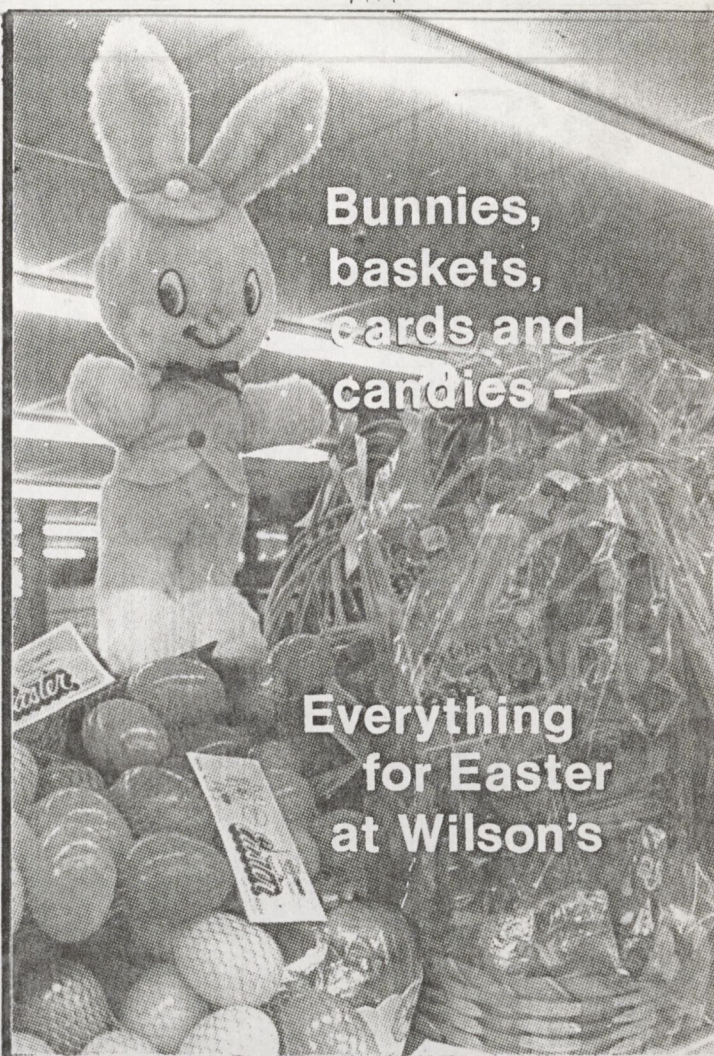
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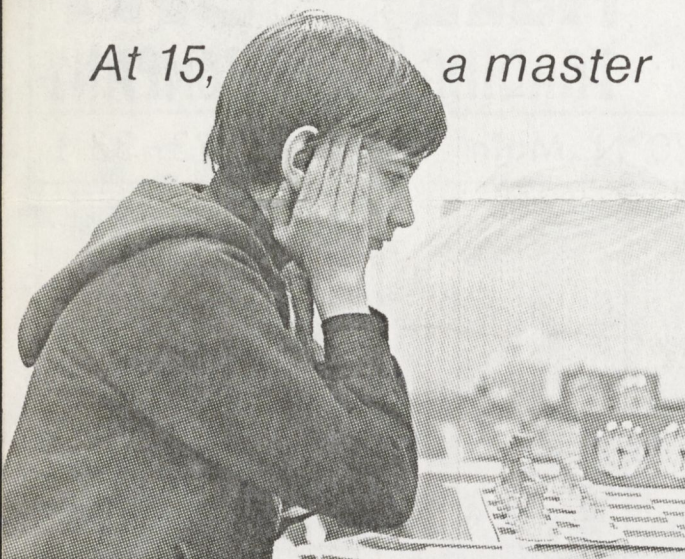
At Lone Pine, chess enthusiasts join with the merely curious to watch quietly as masters from over the world play out a tense drama.



The chess tournament at Lone Pine

By week's end the chess players had packed up and departed, many of them hurrying off to tournaments elsewhere. It had been a big and hard-fought competition and it had attracted more people than ever before. (On Thursday, as they left, one Lone Pine Motel, the Dow Villa, suddenly had 22 empty rooms.) The four winners had played into a frustrating four-way tie and so they split a \$35,000 top prize at \$8875 each, still not bad for two weeks' work. Their reception had been a warm one - but few people here understood them or cared to. For days on end the players remained immersed in a remote, intellectual world of logic and intensity far from most local interests. But many people came to watch, mostly out of curiosity, some of the observers wondering why anyone would play such a "slow" game. But if local interest was not at fever pitch (Here, rodeos are usually considered more fun), no one was denying the significance of the games. Around the world the Lone Pine tournament annually attracts more and more interest, and each year the famous come here in increasing numbers.

At 15, a master



Brooklyn's Chess Master Joel Benjamin
The next Bobby Fischer?

THE TOURNAMENT ATTRACTED A
NUMBER OF ATTENTION-GETTERS

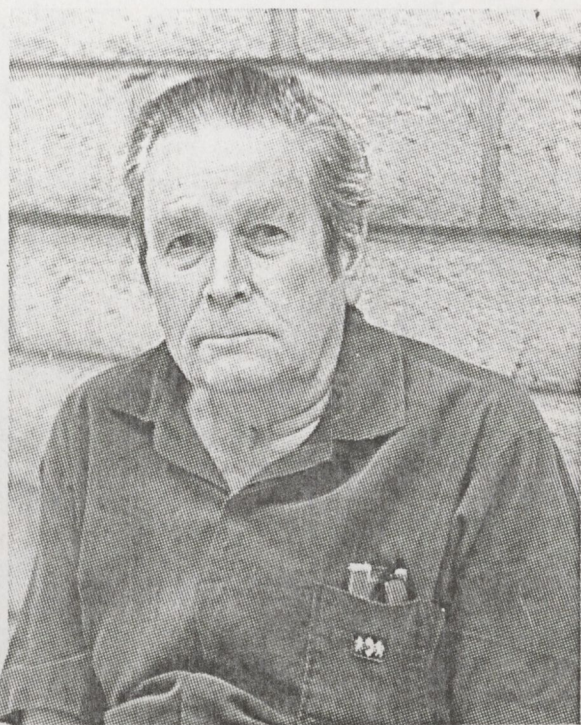
The studious 15-year-old from Brooklyn, NY, turned up to win few games, but a lot of attention. Some see him as a future champion - "another Bobby Fischer." He was also aloof like Fischer, refusing adamantly to be interviewed.

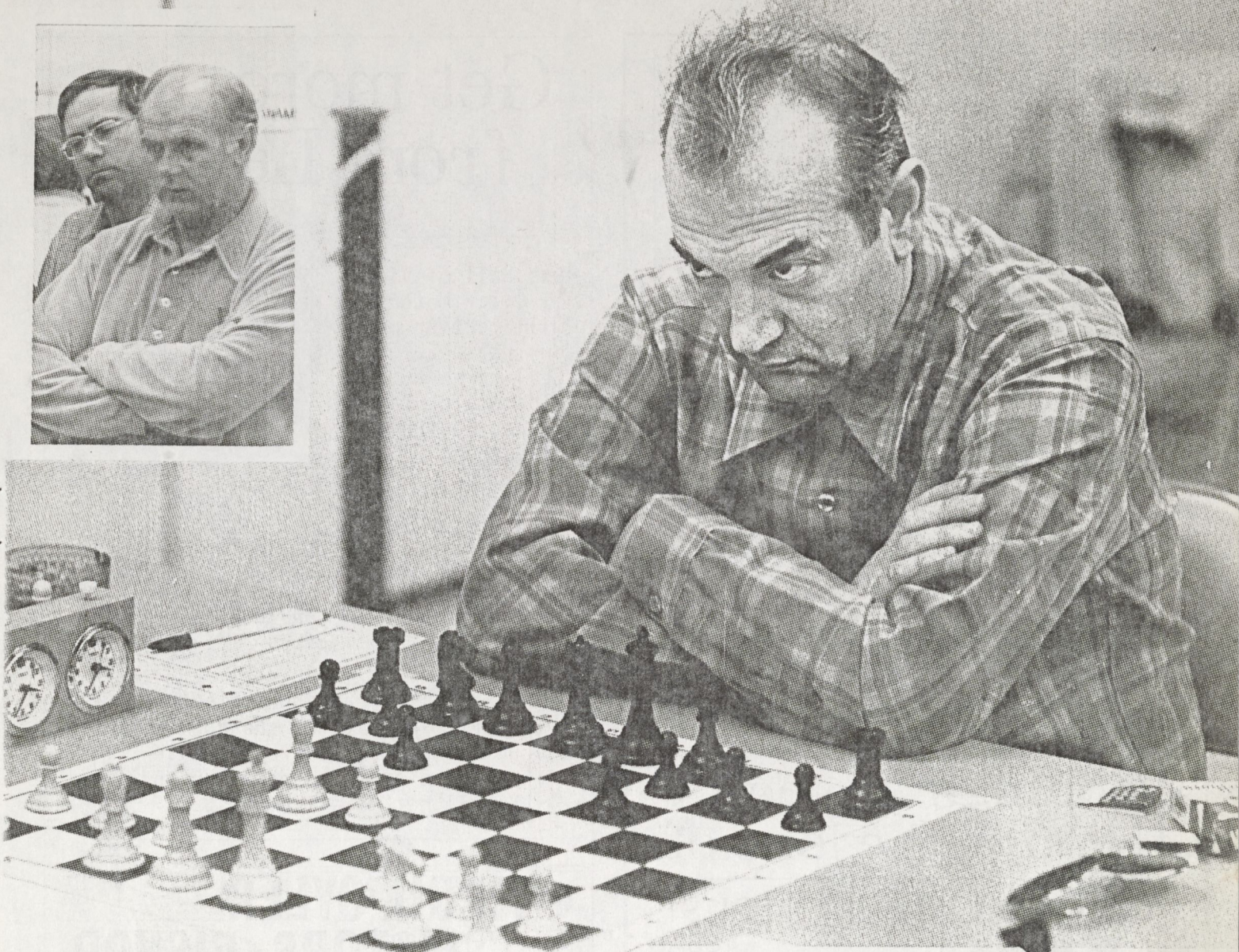


For luck, a wifely hug
But the big names won

The man - and the money - behind it all

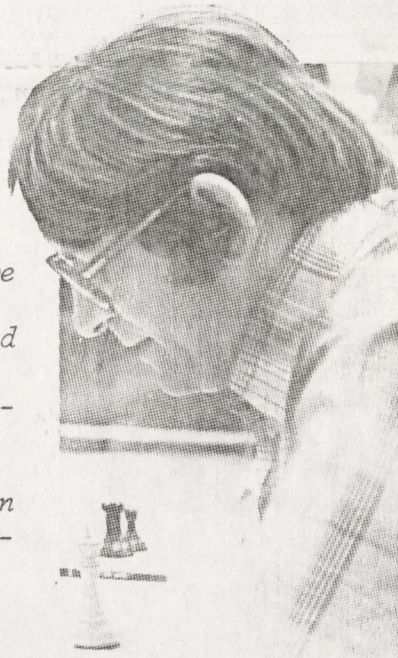
But for a few close friends and associates he remains to many in Inyo County a mystery, a man behind the scenes. Louis Statham, inventor-philanthropist, came to the county 12 years ago and he built what has been called a retirement mansion at Lone Pine. Clearly, he was a wealthy man with money he earned, as he says, as "an inventor all my life. I'm a physicist. I have invented medical and scientific instruments." A few here persist in the belief that Statham invented the "Pacemaker" heart control; he did not. About five years ago he constructed and donated to Inyo County the Lone Pine Town Hall "because the town needed it." The hall also provided a place for the international chess masters who come here each year for the tournaments Statham sponsors. "I became interested in chess as a little boy," he explains. His tournaments have grown increasingly popular. To sponsor the play last week, Statham put up \$60,000.





A glowering Russian defector is defeated

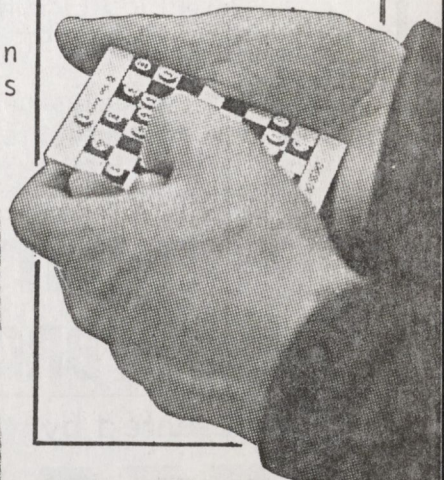
There he sat, the former pride of Russian chessdom, glaring across the board, the center of controversy. Russian authorities had announced in puerile self-righteousness that anyone who played Victor Korchnoi would be banned from any Russian tournaments. The Soviets also boycotted the Lone Pine tournament and two of their grand masters who had earlier announced their intent to play here failed to arrive. Korchnoi had defected to the West some time ago, and lives in Switzerland. Before his defection he had very nearly become the Russian champion. On this day he faced Israel's Vladimir Liberzon (at right) who had no fear of any Russian blackball. Liberzon defeated Korchnoi, and then went on to become one of the winners.



This year's Lone Pine tournament attracted about 70 players who competed for \$45,000 in prizes.

Games take hours. Pushbutton chessboard allows an enthusiast to keep up with the game and later replay it for study.

Among the top winners tied for first place were Romania's Florin Gheorghiu, left, and Yugoslavia's Svetozar Gligoric.



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BY JIM SMITH

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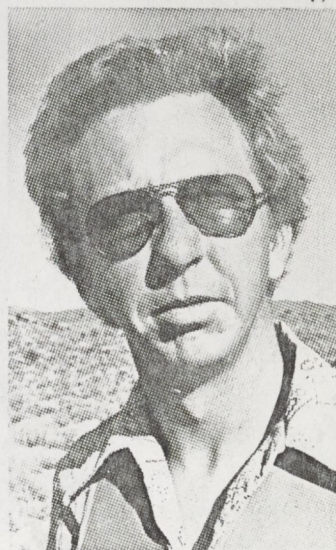
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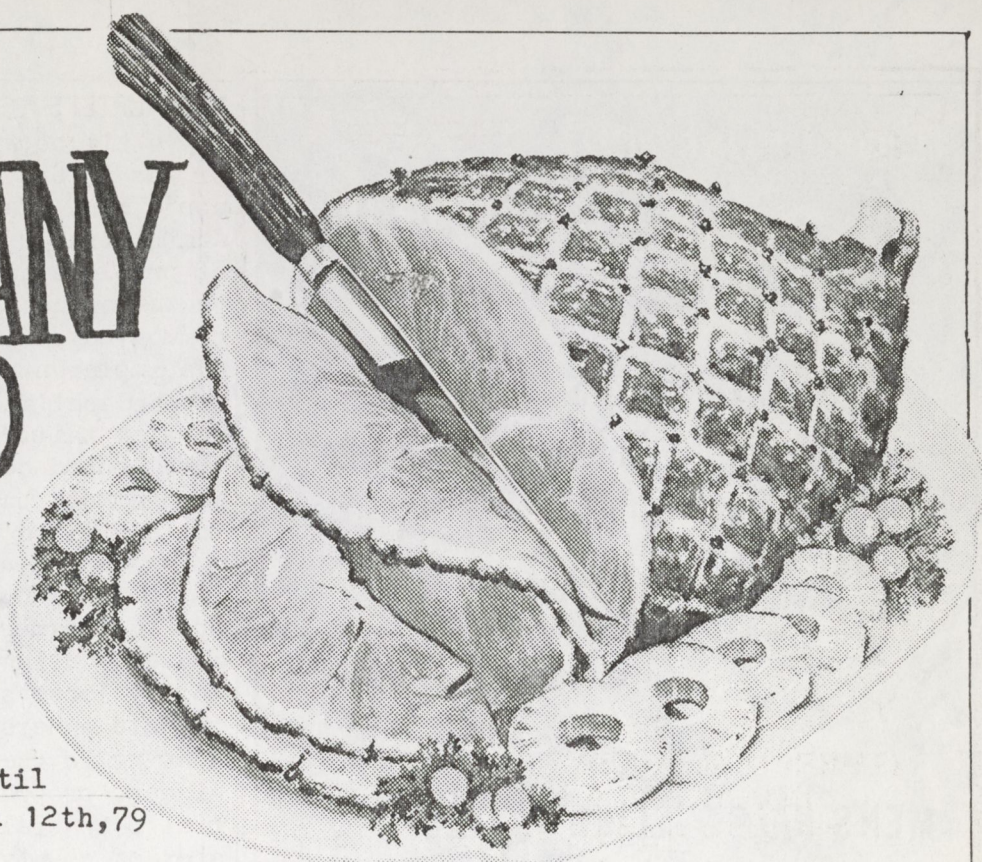
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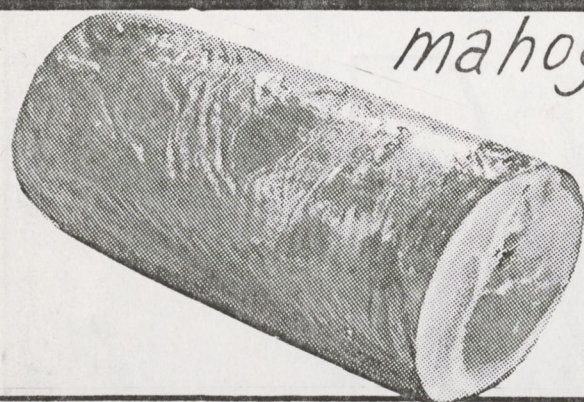
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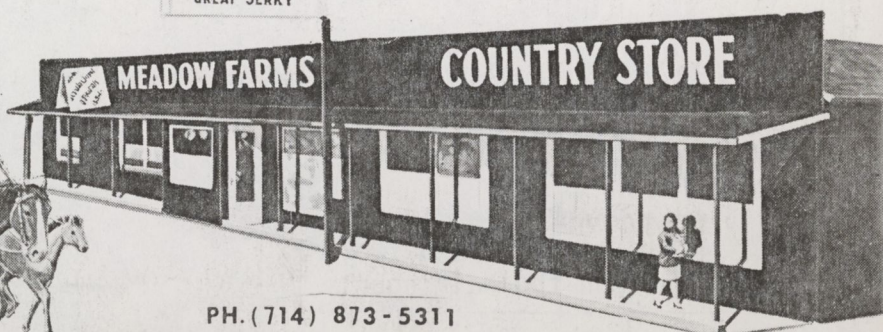
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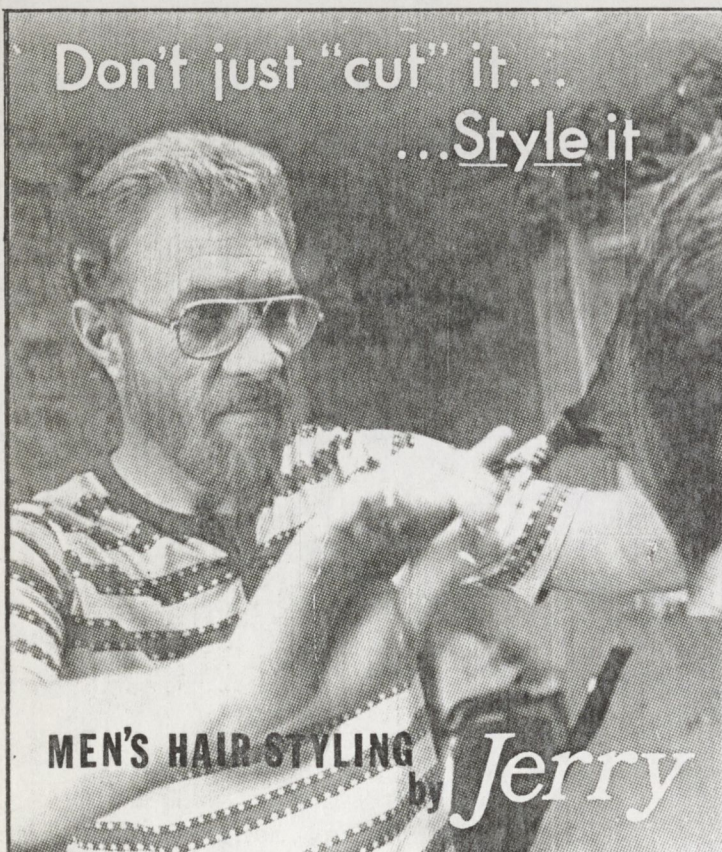
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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

may still be wrong with the way things run - or, as in the case of a recent computer - don't run. "There's no kidding anyone," said Administrator Herman Spencer, "There are a lot of problems and difficulties." Spencer was asked where the complaints are coming from. "One common complaint," he replied, "is that Hyatt has implemented a lot of extra paperwork. But, the federal and state governments had a lot to do with that." In its final decision the hospital board decided to continue the Hyatt management, but on a reduced basis. More details will be worked out at another meeting.

THE HEAD OF ONE OF INYO'S engineering firms and the former director of the Owens Valley Indian Housing Authority claim there's a way to pry loose some of DWP's land holdings for private ownership and for much-needed low-cost housing in the county. Roger Glidden, the engineer, proposes that DWP land with a residential potential can be condemned for the expansion of county communities. Glidden and Vance had recently advised the county supervisors that establishment of a Public Housing Authority could pave the way toward acquisition of land by condemnation proceedings. Says Glidden: "...will provide much needed low-cost housing to the low and moderate income sector and to the elderly citizens of Inyo County." For years, the supervisors and others in the county have continued without success to "negotiate" with the Department of Water and Power urging DWP to sell "lots." Although DWP officials have continually and periodically promised to get around to selling off some of

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LA's lots, none has yet changed hands. Meanwhile DWP has made several new land acquisitions, and the local developers have been hard put to find ground to build housing. As an arm of county government, a housing authority may conceivably provide the muscle needed to get land. "I'm not advising that," said Glidden, but really the only land available next to any county communities is city property."

RECENTLY RETURNING FROM A MEETING with Bureau of Land Management officials at Riverside, Supervisor Richard McDonald expressed some optimism about the "wilderness" plan in Inyo County. "I think they're ready to deal," he advised the other board members, "and we should get to them now." The board, and much of the board's constituency, stand firmly against BLM's plan to take over much of the county's land, including it in a "wilderness" plan. As McDonald warned, "Once the land goes into a wilderness-designated area, there's no way to get it out again." Latest sign the BLM may be considering the county's view is its offer to study an alternative plan set up by the county. McDonald said Inyo has "30 days" to come up with its own map showing what, in the county's view, should and should not be included in BLM "wilderness." Last week, McDonald was still considering what position the county should take: hard-lining a no-wilderness attitude, or, as BLM suggested to him, "a more salable idea" with limited wilderness here. McDonald finally summed up: "Give 'em the mountaintops, but not much more."

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER still remains undecided as to when to start "really billing" people in Inyo at their new and very increased water costs. A few county residents have received - with some shock, it might be added - some "theoretical bills" that give them an idea what they're in for now that the new water meters are in place. Most water bills will apparently go up by anywhere from a 100 to 400%, not unlike the recent increases in DWP's power rates. DWP's Paul Lane says he'll know more about when the actual billing will start "in a week or two."

IN SPITE OF EFFORTS BY SUPERVISOR WILMA MUTH, the board this week inexplicably re-instated its recently-controversial "park fees." On the complaints of builders and home buyers the supervisors had recently decided to quit collecting the fees (After all, why collect park fees if there is absolutely no plan to build parks?), but this week they did the proverbial and confused flip-flop. Muth, who earlier had supported a plan to drop the fee system, said this week that they are "totally inequitable." Many builders, and the buyers who must foot the bill in the long run, would agree. But the supervisors voted 4-1 to continue collecting the cash. And what will it be spent for? No one seemed quite sure.

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS...

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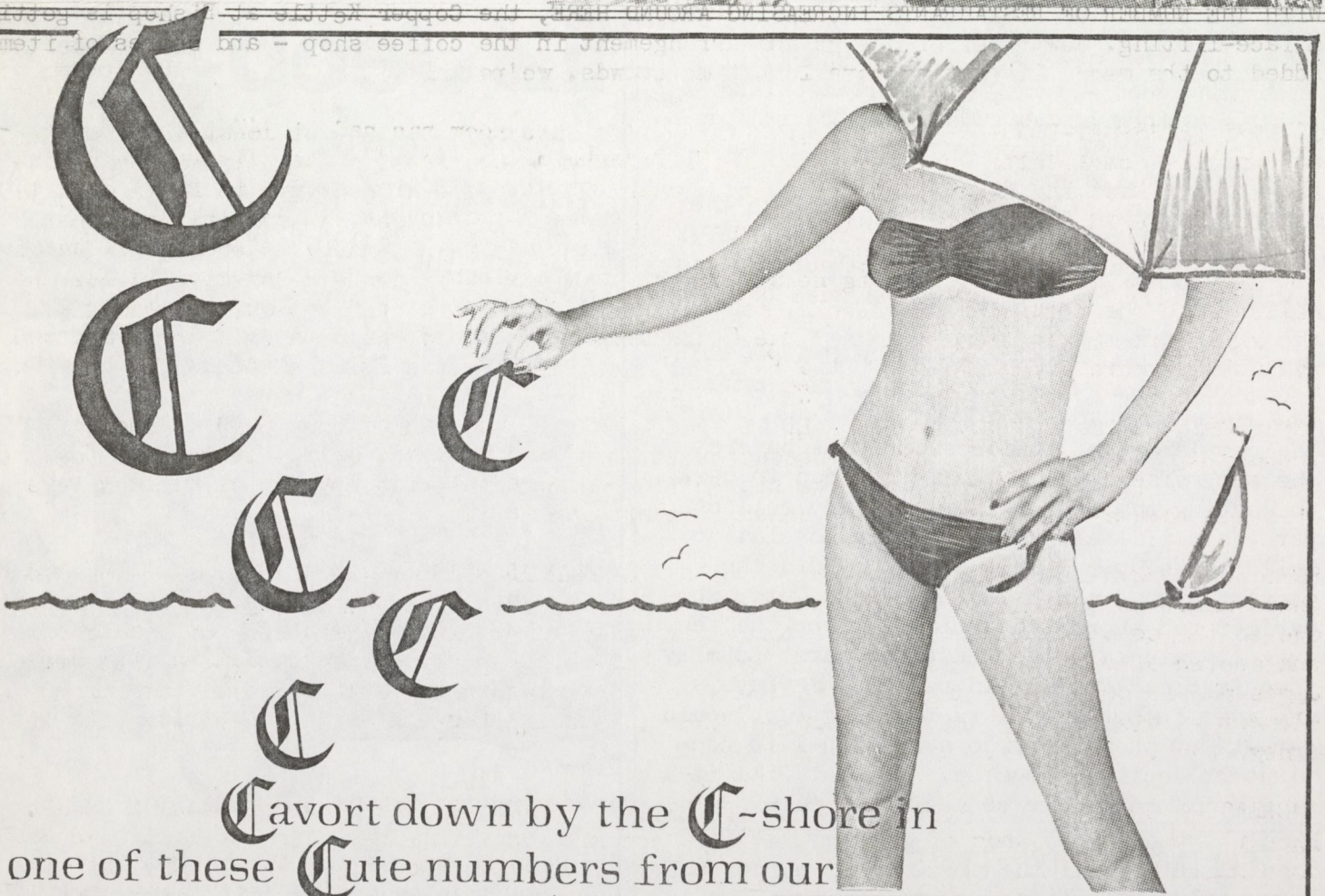
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Fire and wind

"It was easier to burn the weeds than to cut them," said the Indian reservation CETA worker. But the wind came up. From Independence came the firemen. Shortly afterward, a second blast from the town siren called for more help, and a number of people from town went to Oak Creek to help with hoses and shovels. Firemen drafted water from a creek (right) to help battle the wind-blown brushfire that threatened the Indian Campground building north of the line. Two other fires were less serious. See the back page for story.



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Notes From B.K.



BENETT KESSLER

WITH THE MARKET GETTING BULLISH AGAIN INTEREST IN STOCKS IS ON THE UPSWING. So much so that a broker - agent for Dean Witter Reynolds - will be making more or less regular visits to Inyo to handle Inyo portfolios. He is Dave Elkins of Dean Witter's Bakersfield office who recently met privately with a few stockholders in Lone Pine. Says he'll be in Lone Pine "every few weeks or as needed." And what stocks, we asked him, are currently holding Inyo's interests. "Blue Chips," he said, and added, "some banking investments." The folks around here are "playing it safe" what with the current economic conditions. Unknown, or un-noticed, by a number of people is the fact that the market is moving again although things on the Street were looking pretty bad a short while ago. But people are reactive: the nuclear plant news from Pennsylvania caused a short drop in the Dow averages. We asked Elkins if he had any advice on where to put the dollars. He declined to say, but others tell us that, obviously, "big oil" is going to be making it. Our bet is that the congress won't lay any 50% tax on Oil's "excessive profits," as recommended by Carter.

THAT MEDIA ITEM WE RAN A SHORT TIME BACK - the one about the movies and TV involvements here mentioned the fact that Inyo's Kenney Scruggs had gone on a television game show because she needed the bucks to stay in law school. Tuition, it seems, is up, and the student loans have not changed. Some kind soul read the item and - anonymously - sent five \$20 bills in the mail, care of the news service. Scruggs was overwhelmed, going into tears. Yes, it was needed. We don't know who sent it, either, but that's a Very Pleasant People type we'd like to know. *And an added note: Still another envelope arrived early this week; yep, another \$100.*

AND SPEAKING OF VPP'S, we'd like to add Tim McCutcheon's name to the list. Ran into him out at the 19th hole of the Bishop Golf Club the other afternoon. He'd just finished a round with some friends. He's the Valley Federal Savings man, and another, we might add, who has a lot of savvy about "investments." We've found him to be the type who is helpful - whether you have an account with his outfit or not.

STILL MUCH IN THE MINDS OF INYO COUNTIANS, whatever their politics: the late Congressman Bill Ketchum. Recently at Death Valley there was a Ketchum Memorial Golf Tournament organized by Martin Luther (the auto dealer) of Bishop. Twenty-six couples entered the tourney and they raised about \$2000 for donations to heart and cancer funds.

WITH THE NUMBER OF RESTAURANTS INCREASING AROUND HERE, the Copper Kettle at Bishop is getting a face-lifting. New interior design and arrangement in the coffee shop - and scores of items added to the menu. Attracting more lunchtime crowds, we're told.

SO IT'S LET'S-GET-DOWN-ON-THE-COPS-TIME AGAIN. The news room has had at least three calls - anonymous - complaining about a deputy sheriff "driving too fast" on the highway near Lone Pine. Seems that the deputy collided with a camper that was making a turn in front of him. One caller asked "Why wasn't that reported on the news?" In answer, we can only say that there was no cover-up, no attempt to hide the mishap, and no injuries; in short, the accident simply was not considered big news any more than any other fender-bender would be. One caller said the officer, Mike Steele, was "going 80 miles an hour." Not so, according to the skid mark measurements taken by the Highway Patrol. Steele was on a call southward and was doing a bare five miles over the 55 limit, according to the CHP estimates.

SOMETIMES WE WISH SOMEBODY WOULD CALL US WITH A HOT TIP when an officer does a kindness, renders a favor, gives some badly-needed assistance, and solves a crime. It must be that people take for granted the positive side of law enforcement, but let one of the men make a mistake, however trivial, and the phones ring off the wall.

SOME FOLK ARE STILL ASKING WHY FRED SCHAEFER RESIGNED AS BISHOP'S CITY ATTORNEY. He said there might be "conflicts of interest." But others say his resignation was at least in part due to the constant criticism - sometimes personal - that blasted regularly at him from one or two of Bishop's councilmen. Schaefer will now be working in association with Greg James who is going into private practice after a stint with the DA's office. There is an element in Bishop, say our news sources, that is pushing for Rod Smith to get the city attorney's job. And "push" may come to "shove."

INCREASING CONCERN HERE ABOUT GASOLINE PRICES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A CUTBACK ON USAGE. Face it, those thousands of campers and RV's are gas guzzlers. They bring tourists who may soon begin to feel the crunch and opt for their local parks and nearby lakes; the trip to Inyo, after all, costs a lot of bucks. Denton Sonke, the Bishop Chamber of Commerce man, says he and others in the California tourist situation may "possibly" begin a lobbying project in Washington. Week-end closures of gas stations could leave us short of tourists. For the local economy, that could be bad news.

...BUT MAY THE NEWS IN YOUR DAY BE GOOD NEWS, EVERY DAY....

- Sincerely,

BK

Brush fires: drill for the season ahead



Photos:
John Heston
Benett Kessler
Jim Smith

As California's brushfires go, the week's small eruptions were neither spectacular nor extremely dangerous. But Bishop and Lone Pine firemen and California Conservation Corps crews found in them a good drill for the summer season ahead.



The fire on the Owens River east of Bishop broke out within yards of a warning sign. Firemen there attributed the fire to a carelessly discarded cigarette. While the firemen and CCC crews worked, fishermen continued their sport nearby. About two acres burned.

**DANGEROUS
FIRE AREA
NO CAMPFIRE**

NO OPEN BURNING PERMITTED
INYO COUNTY FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU



At Lone Pine a "controlled burn" got out of hand (above) and a highway patrolman called in fire trucks.

eastern sierra news service

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